

REMARKS

The Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 1-20 are pending. Claims 1, 2, 14, and 15 are amended, and claim 20 is added. Claims 1, 14, and 20 are independent. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner states that claims 6, 7, 11, 12, and 19 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims;

The Applicants appreciate the Examiner's early indication of allowable subject matter. As indicated below,

each of independent claims 1 and 14 is amended to include a novel combination of elements not suggested by the cited references, and

allowable claim 6 is combined with independent claim 1 as originally filed and presented herein as added independent claim 20.

Therefore, independent claims 1, 14, and 20 are in condition for allowance.

Claim For Priority

The Examiner has acknowledged the Applicants' claim for foreign priority.

Acknowledgement Of Information Disclosure Statement

It is gratefully acknowledged that the Examiner has acknowledged the Information Disclosure Statement filed on December 23, 2004.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and §103(bA)

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Isaka et al. (U.S. 5,323,952), and claims 1-5, 8-10, and 13-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Haughney et al. (U.S. 5,499,612) in view of alleged applicants' admitted prior art (JP Patent No. 2,820,782B) mentioned in paragraph [0003] of the specification as filed. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Amendments To Independent Claims 1 And 14

While not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to advance prosecution of the instant application, each of independent claims 1 and 14 is amended herein to recite a combination of elements directed to an air fuel engine, wherein at least part of compressed air supply passages for supplying compressed air to said injector housing is provided directly in said head cover.

Support for at least part of compressed air supply passages for supplying compressed air to said injector housing is provided directly in said head cover can be found in the specification, for example in paragraph [0065]. See also FIG. 7.

Regarding the Isaka et al. document, as can be seen in FIG. 2, Isaka et al. merely disclose a separate air conduit 94, 96 communicating between the air pump 68 and injector

35. Therefore, the Isaka et al. device is more complicated and fails to achieve a reduction in the number of parts as made possible with the present invention.

Accordingly reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) are respectfully requested.

Regarding the Haughney et al. document, the Examiner concedes that this document is drawn to a fuel injector as opposed to the air fuel injector of the present invention.

Moreover, as can be seen in Haughney et al. FIG. 2, this document merely discloses a separate fuel line 32 communicating between fluid manifold 22 and the fuel injector.

Regarding JP Patent No. 2,820,782, the Applicants do not admit that JP Patent No. 2,820,782 is prior art for rejecting the claims of the present invention as alleged by the Examiner. As can be seen from an English translation and FIG. 2 of JP Patent No. 2,820,782 attached, a separate air conduit 70 is required to communicate between the air pump 33 and injector 13.

Nowhere in either of Haughney et al. or JP Patent No. 2,820,782 is there any hint of at least part of compressed air supply passages for supplying compressed air to said injector housing is provided directly in said head cover, as set forth in claims 1 and 14 of the present invention.

Therefore, Haughney et al. and JP Patent No. 2,820,782, whether taken alone or combined, cannot achieve a reduction in the number of parts that is made possible by the presently claimed invention.

Accordingly reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) are respectfully requested.

Therefore, independent claims 1 and 14 are in condition for allowance.

Independent Claim 20 Added

As noted above, added claim 20 combines the subject matter of the original claim 1 and the allowable subject matter of objected-to claim 6.

Therefore, independent claim 20 is in condition for allowance.

The Examiner will note that dependent claims 2 and 15 are amended herein to reflect the changes to independent claims 1 and 14, from which they depend respectively.

All dependent claims are in condition for allowance due to their dependency from allowable independent claims, or due to the additional novel features set forth therein.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and 103(a) are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Since the remaining patents cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject claims, but merely to show the state of the art, no comment need be made with respect thereto.

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and that the present application is in condition for allowance.

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Amendment dated November 10, 2004
Reply to Office Action of August 12, 2004

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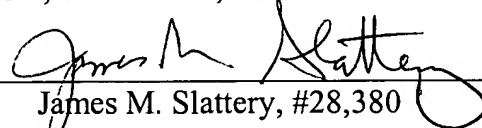
If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, he is invited to telephone Carl T. Thomsen (Reg. No. 50,786) at (703) 205-8000.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17, particularly extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment: JP Patent 2,820,782